

at the Ninth Summit of the Americas in June 2022, which has strengthened efforts to advance marine conservation in South America; and

Whereas Chileans in the United States have enriched and added to the way of life of the United States and become an integral part of the cultural history of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) commemorates the 200th anniversary of the establishment of the official relationship between the United States of America and the Republic of Chile;

(2) recognizes the historical partnership between the United States and Chile, and reaffirms long-lasting collaboration with Chile to address mutual challenges and enhance the prosperity and security of the people of the United States and Chile;

(3) reaffirms bilateral cooperation between the United States and Chile to promote the advancement of science and technology and environmental sustainability;

(4) expresses support for the shared principles of democratic governance, human rights, and rule of law underpinning the relationship between the United States and Chile; and

(5) celebrates the contributions that Chileans and Chilean Americans have made in the United States.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 141—SUPPORTING ASEAN CENTRALITY IN THE INDO-PACIFIC REGION

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 141

Whereas, with more than 686,000,000 people, the ten members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) collectively boast the third largest population in the world and a gross domestic product of \$3,300,000,000,000, and serves to promote economic growth and regional stability among its members, as well as a rules-based international order;

Whereas ASEAN is situated in a critical geographic position, straddling the sea lanes between the Indian Ocean to the west and the Pacific Ocean to the east;

Whereas, at the 10th annual U.S.-ASEAN Summit in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. and the ASEAN leaders elevated United States-ASEAN relations to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership;

Whereas, under this framework, there has been an unprecedented expansion in United States-ASEAN relations, including the launch of five new high-level dialogues on health, transportation, gender equality and women's empowerment, environment and climate, and energy, as well as elevated engagement on foreign affairs, economics, and defense;

Whereas, in October 2022, the Office of the Special Presidential Envoy for Climate joined a senior officials' dialogue on the environment and climate with ASEAN, during which the two sides decided to establish a cooperation work plan and to hold a special U.S.-ASEAN Ministerial Dialogue on the Environment and Climate in 2023;

Whereas President Biden has reaffirmed the strong support of the United States for ASEAN centrality and the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific, building on the historic success of the first-ever U.S.-ASEAN Special Summit in Washington, D.C. in May 2022;

Whereas the United States is committed to supporting the implementation of the

ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific's Maritime Pillar, and the United States Government has announced \$60,000,000 in new regional maritime initiatives;

Whereas, in 2022, the United States provided over \$860,000,000 in assistance through the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to ASEAN partners to support the environment, access to education, strengthened health systems, security modernization efforts, rule of law, and human rights;

Whereas the Department of Agriculture and the United States International Development Finance Corporation plan to invest \$57,000,000 in new programs across Southeast Asia to promote food security and ensure access to safe water, including a new "Food for School Feeding" program;

Whereas the United States supports the ASEAN Center for Pandemic Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases (ACPHEED), including through USAID assistance and through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;

Whereas the United States International Development Finance Corporation will invest \$215,000,000 in loans to Southeast Asian financial institutions, in order to help low-income women access capital and contribute to economic growth;

Whereas the Mekong-U.S. Partnership, established in 2020 to expand upon the Lower Mekong Initiative, promotes sustainable long-term economic development throughout mainland Southeast Asia and fosters regional cooperation, integration, and capacity building;

Whereas the strength of U.S.-ASEAN relations is anchored in the friendship shared by our combined 1,000,000,000 people, and each year the United States provides more than \$70,000,000 to support educational and cultural exchanges that foster greater understanding;

Whereas more than 650 students, teachers, and scholars participate in Fulbright exchanges between the United States and ASEAN, and participants from all 10 ASEAN member states take part in the program;

Whereas 2023 marks the 10th anniversary of the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI), which offers exchanges, regional workshops, small grant funding, and other programs to develop ties between the United States and ASEAN;

Whereas, at the September 2020 ASEAN-U.S. Foreign Ministers' Meeting, the United States announced the new YSEALI Academy at Fulbright University in Vietnam to expand YSEALI's people-to-people engagement between the United States and ASEAN;

Whereas seven ASEAN member states link to 23 States and the District of Columbia through 81 sister city, nine sister state, and 20 sister county connections; and

Whereas the Peace Corps has programs in five ASEAN member states (Cambodia, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam), including the inaugural program in Vietnam launched in 2022 with 10 Peace Corps Trainees to promote English language learning and literacy in Vietnam's secondary schools: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) promotes deepening cooperation with ASEAN member states and the ASEAN Secretariat under our Comprehensive Strategic Partnership to promote peace, security, and stability in the Indo-Pacific region;

(2) reaffirms the importance of ASEAN centrality, the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific, and ASEAN-led mechanisms in the institutional architecture of the Indo-Pacific region;

(3) commemorates the 10th anniversary of YSEALI on December 3, 2023, and supports its expanding programs;

(4) commends the work and mission of the Peace Corps in the region, including the historic arrival of the first Peace Corps Volunteers to Vietnam, at the invitation of the Government of Vietnam;

(5) celebrates the 10th anniversary of our comprehensive partnership with Vietnam and supports elevating our relationship to a strategic partnership;

(6) congratulates Indonesia for its successful leadership as Chair of the G20 and United States-ASEAN country coordinator in 2022, and extends United States support and best wishes as it assumes the ASEAN Chairmanship in 2023, under the theme "ASEAN Matters: Epicentrum of Growth";

(7) applauds the steadfast U.S.-Indonesia Strategic Partnership, Indonesia's leadership on the issue of women and girls' education in Afghanistan, and Indonesia's dedication to renewable energy and a transition away from fossil fuels, as committed to in the Just Energy Transition Partnership agreement;

(8) reaffirms the importance of the Mekong-U.S. Partnership and the value of transboundary cooperation across the Mekong sub-region, and supports a whole-of-government approach in providing coordinated assistance, including programmatic support from USAID and the Department of State;

(9) encourages ASEAN, including through the ASEAN Chair and Office of the Special Envoy, to play an active role beyond the Five Point Consensus to bring about an end to all forms of violence in Burma, the release of all those arbitrarily detained, and unhindered humanitarian access throughout the country; and

(10) supports the people of Burma in their quest for democracy, sustainable peace, and genuine ethnic and religious reconciliation.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 142—EXPRESSING CONCERN ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL CRIMES AND ATTACKS ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND LAND DEFENDERS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. KAINE, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. MURPHY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 142

Whereas rising instances of environmental crimes, land grabbing, unregulated and illegal natural resource destruction and extraction, and irresponsible infrastructure development threaten biodiversity and rural and Indigenous community livelihoods in Latin America and the Caribbean, which is home to 40 percent of the world's species and more than 24 percent of the Earth's forests;

Whereas harassment, threats, assaults, and killings against environmental and land defenders protesting such crimes and development have increased throughout the region since 2018;

Whereas, according to Global Witness, Latin America is the deadliest region in the world for environmental and land defenders, with nearly 75 percent of the 200 known attacks against such defenders during 2021 taking place in the region, including—

(1) in Mexico, where 54 environmental and land defenders were murdered in 2021, representing the highest number of such murders in any country that year;

(2) in Colombia, where 33 environmental and land defenders were murdered during 2021, representing the second highest number of such murders in any country that year;

(3) in Brazil, where 342 environmental and land defenders have been murdered since 2012, representing the highest number of such murders of any country since the reporting of such murders began; and

(4) in Peru, Venezuela, and Brazil, where 78 percent of the attacks against environmental and land defenders in the Amazon region occurred;

Whereas more than 25 percent of the attacks on environmental and land defenders during 2021 were reportedly linked to resource exploitation, including logging, mining, large scale agribusiness, hydroelectric dams, and other infrastructure;

Whereas, approximately 40 to 60 percent of logging activities in the Peruvian Amazon are illegal, according to INTERPOL, and approximately 95 percent of deforestation in Brazil in 2021 was irregular, according to the Brazilian Annual Land Use and Land Cover Mapping Project;

Whereas, in 2021, Indigenous peoples made up more than 40 percent of victims in fatal attacks against environmental and land defenders worldwide, despite Indigenous peoples only comprising approximately 5 percent of the world's population;

Whereas Indigenous peoples, who steward more than 80 percent of the world's biodiversity, are disproportionately vulnerable to the effects of environmental loss and more frequently targeted in attacks on environmental and land defenders;

Whereas women acting in defense of their lands and natural environments in Latin America face additional threats to their human rights, as Latin America has the highest rates of gender-based violence in the world;

Whereas many countries in Latin America and the Caribbean lack sufficient oversight capacity, transparency, and accountability for regulations of environmental permits and investigations of environmental crimes, especially in Indigenous lands, nationally protected forests, and other remote geographical areas with limited government presence, forcing affected populations to advocate for their land and natural resources at great personal risk;

Whereas corruption in Latin America and the Caribbean enables the subversion of laws designed to prevent environmental crime and protect natural resources, undermining efforts to prevent ecological destruction;

Whereas the COVID-19 pandemic has strained the resources and institutional capacity of Latin American and Caribbean governments to address environmental crimes and prevent the expansion of nonstate actors into remote areas and border regions where these groups target environmental and land defenders and engage in illicit mining and drug trafficking activities;

Whereas the United States Agency for International Development has developed programs to reduce environmental crimes and other threats to the Amazon's forests, waters, and peoples throughout Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, and Suriname;

Whereas all Latin American and Caribbean countries have ratified the decision by the 21st Conference of Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, adopted at Paris December 12, 2015 (commonly known as the "Paris Climate Agreement"), which states, "Parties should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote, and consider their respective obligations on human rights, the right to health, the rights of indigenous peoples, local communities, migrants, children,

persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations";

Whereas 15 countries in Latin America ratified the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169) of the International Labor Organization, establishing the rights of Indigenous people to land, natural resources, and prior consultation on projects affecting their communities, although many such countries have consistently failed to respect these legally binding standards;

Whereas 25 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean have signed, and 14 of these 25 countries have ratified, the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean, adopted at Escazú, Costa Rica March 4, 2018 (commonly known as the "Escazú Agreement"), to ensure the protection of environmental defenders across the region; and

Whereas, on June 9, 2022, at the Ninth Summit of the Americas in Los Angeles, heads of state and government of the Western Hemisphere adopted "Our Sustainable Green Future", a commitment to draft and approve national plans, before the commencement of the Tenth Summit of the Americas in the Dominican Republic in 2025—

(1) to respond to threats and attacks on environmental defenders and collect data on such threats and attacks, in accordance with domestic law;

(2) to enact, as appropriate, and enforce domestic laws to protect environmental defenders and the resources they defend; and

(3) to carry out and implement environmental assessments in accordance with existing domestic law: Now, therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) underscores the urgency of protecting biodiversity in Latin America and the Caribbean, ending impunity for environmental crimes, protecting environmental and land defenders, and confronting risks and addressing threats to such actors;

(2) urges governments in Latin America and the Caribbean to protect the rights of Indigenous peoples and other environmental and land defenders, including—

(A) strengthening efforts and initiatives aimed at combating environmental crimes and protecting the territory of environmental and land defenders;

(B) complying with commitments made under the Paris Climate Agreement, Convention 169 of the International Labor Organization, and the Escazú Agreement to pursue environmental justice and protect the rights of Indigenous peoples and other environmental and land defenders, particularly in relation to rights to land titling and prior consultation; and

(C) implementing "Our Sustainable Green Future" commitments made at the Ninth Summit of the Americas to advance the protection of environmental and land defenders;

(3) calls on the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, to support and assist governments in Latin America and the Caribbean in meeting regional and international standards and commitments for the protection of Indigenous peoples and other environmental and land defenders, including through—

(A) capacity building initiatives aimed at strengthening networks of environmental and land defenders, Indigenous peoples, and civil society organizations;

(B) providing technical assistance and other support to combat corruption within agencies dealing with forestry management and environmental crimes;

(C) collaborating with law enforcement authorities, including through the sharing of

intelligence, to help dismantle criminal groups responsible for committing environmental crime and violence against environmental and land defenders;

(D) reinforcing the importance of free, prior, and informed consent of Indigenous peoples within such regional and international commitments;

(E) promoting the participation of women, Indigenous peoples, Afro-descendant communities, environmental and land defenders, and other affected and vulnerable communities in regional and international forums related to human rights, environmental protection, and climate change; and

(F) hosting summits and other multilateral forums, with the participation of governments in the region and relevant civil society organizations, to share the experiences of environmental and land defenders and advance solutions to protect biodiversity and confront impunity around environmental crime; and

(4) calls on the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, in coordination with the Secretary of State, to develop comprehensive regional and subregional action plans with input from environmental and land defenders to counter environmental crime and attacks against environmental and land defenders in Latin America and the Caribbean, including by—

(A) strengthening current programs in Brazil and Colombia;

(B) expanding key pillars of ongoing programs to Mexico, Peru, Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador, where such initiatives are largely absent; and

(C) ensuring that projects supported or funded by the United States Government in Latin America and the Caribbean take into account the protection of Indigenous peoples and environmental and land defenders.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 143—EX-PRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF APRIL 3 THROUGH APRIL 7, 2023, AS NATIONAL ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS WEEK

Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mr. DURBIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 143

Whereas the National Association of Secondary School Principals (referred to in this preamble as "NASSP"), the National Association of Elementary School Principals, and the American Federation of School Administrators have designated the week of April 3 through April 7, 2023, as "National Assistant Principals Week";

Whereas an assistant principal, as a member of the school administration, interacts with many sectors of the school community, including support staff, instructional staff, students, and parents;

Whereas assistant principals are responsible for establishing a positive learning environment and building strong relationships between school and community;

Whereas assistant principals play a pivotal role in the instructional leadership of their schools by supervising student instruction, mentoring teachers, recognizing the achievements of staff, encouraging collaboration among staff, ensuring the implementation of best practices, monitoring student achievement and progress, facilitating and modeling data-driven decision making to inform instruction, and guiding the direction of targeted intervention and school improvement;